

We hear a great deal about the importance of teaching our children good nutrition as well as about the epidemic of obesity and poor eating habits among American children. But for all the talk and concern, we do far too little about it.

Last year, I worked with my colleagues to take concrete steps to address these issues. Concerned about the fact that many children today have only minimal experiences with fresh fruits and vegetables, we created a pilot project that provides fresh fruits and vegetables to schools in Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and to schools on an Indian reservation at Zuni, NM.

Despite the fact that we know there are many positive benefits associated with the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, we still fail to do nearly enough to encourage their consumption through our Federal nutrition programs. We must do more to encourage their purchase in our schools and to promote their consumption on an individual level.

The reports that we are getting back from schools about this program are absolutely tremendous. Just last week my staff had a conference call with school administrators, parents, and students at Zuni, NM. They are almost ecstatic in their praise of the program. The children were excited to be able to try foods that they had never had a chance to eat before. Parents report that their kids are coming home to them and asking them to buy the same fruits and vegetables for the home that they eat at school. And school administrators report healthier diets, fewer discipline problems, and buy-in from the entire school community. Even the janitors love the program.

Dieticians and school officials in Iowa tell me that, because of the fruit and vegetable pilot, their work is more fulfilling now than ever before.

This is a program that we need to expand so that all schools are able to participate. As the Senate moves forward with the reauthorization of our child nutrition programs this year, I'll be looking at ways that we can do this and at ways that we can encourage healthier lifestyles for all of our children.

In the meantime, the bill that I am introducing today allows us to extend the current fruit and vegetable pilot for an additional year. Because of the short timeframe that we had to actually set up the fruit and vegetable pilot, many of the schools were not able to begin their participation in the program as quickly as they had hoped. As a result, many schools will have funds remaining at the end of the school year. They have told me, as has the Department of Agriculture, that they would like to use their carryover funds for an additional year. This bill simply extends the authorization of the Department of Agriculture to continue the program for another year.

This does not provide any new money. It simply allows the schools to

carryover current funds into the 2003 school year. The Congressional Budget Office has indicated that there is no cost associated with this.

As evidenced by the concurrence of Senator COCHRAN, this is a non-partisan, non-controversial bill, and I urge my colleagues to work with me to see that this program is extended before its current authorization runs out on June 30 of this year.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The bill (S. 870) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 870

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 18(g)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)(4)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, to remain available until the close of the school year beginning July 2003”.

#### DESIGNATING THE JIM RICHARDSON POST OFFICE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1505 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1505) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2127 Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the “Jim Richardson Post Office”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1505) was read the third time and passed.

#### REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF TREATIES—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 108-4

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on April 10, 2003, by the President of the United States:

Protocols of the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949, on Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania,

Slovakia, and Slovenia, Treaty Document No. 108-4.

I further ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

#### *To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. These protocols were opened for signature at Brussels on March 26, 2003, and signed that day on behalf of the United States and the other parties to the ratification of these documents. I also transmit for the information of the Senate a report submitted to me by the Secretary of State regarding this matter.

The end of communism and the consolidation freedom and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe have been among the great developments of human history. NATO played a vital role in defending freedom and promoting this peaceful change for over 50 years. I am pleased that, with the advice and consent of the Senate, these new democracies can soon join us as members of this great Alliance.

As the threats to the Alliance have changed, NATO itself has adapted to face them. At the Prague Summit in November 2002, I joined the leaders of NATO not only in inviting these nations to join us as members, but also in calling for a transformation of NATO's military capabilities and structures to meet the threats of the 21st century. NATO is proceeding with that agenda. Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia are already making real contributions to the common security of the NATO Allies, including the United States, and I ask the Senate to join me in advancing the cause of freedom and strengthening NATO by providing its prompt advice and consent to these Protocols of Accession. My Administration stands ready to assist you as best we can in your deliberations.

GEORGE BUSH.

#### APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85-874, as amended, appoints the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, vice the Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID.